fired. So far as is known, two persons (according to one witness three) were injured by the police firing but none were killed or seriously injured. The District Superintendent of Police ordered the fire to cease as soon as his party was safe from immediate attack by the crowd. The police had succeeded in checking the crowd and preventing them from lynching the engine crew; their force, however, was insufficient to disperse the crowd which was essential if the peace was to be preserved and the line restored and wreckage removed. The attitude of the crowd continued menacing, and the District Superintendent of Police found it necessary to fetch reinforcements. While leaving for this purpose, his car was surrounded and pelted with stones. On his return with additional men, the number of the crowd had increased and several charges had to be made before the mob was dispersed and the situation brought under control. The District Magistrate of Trichinopoly held a magisterial enquiry into the shooting. The conclusions arrived at were that the mob was intent on murder, that the police handled the situation with great promptness and without undue severity in the most judicious manner possible under the circumstances, that the firing on the mob was fully justified, that it was done with discrimination and was stopped as soon as it became unnecessary.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether in regard to what is stated in their reply, viz., 'so far as is known, two persons (according to one witness three) were injured by the police firing but none were killed or seriously injured', is it a fact that as reported at that time, the Government have ascertained since then that at least one man was killed and many were injured ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir, it is not a fact."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" In paragraph 3 of the answer it is stated that 'the position of this particular level crossing was such that the engine crew could not see whether a vehicle was coming from the road to the level crossing until the engine was about fifty yards from it'. May I know, Sir, whether the engine crew whistled the engine ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " I do not know, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if any constable was posted at that spot to regulate traffic, knowing that the position of the level crossing was difficult and that the gates had already been removed ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice, Sir."

Cost of the Police aid to the South Indian Railway Company during the strike.

* 363 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent and cost to the provincial exchequer of the services rendered by the police to the South Indian Railway Company during the recent railway strike ;

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(*b*) whether this help was rendered on requisition by the Railway authorities and whether they paid anything towards the cost thereof, if so, how much, and if not, why not; and

(*c*) whether one of the objects of this display of police force was to strike terror into the strikers and force them into submission?

A.—(*a*) The services of the police were employed in preventing illegal acts on the railway, in enforcing the law and preserving the public peace and in protecting as far as possible the travelling public. An estimate of the cost has been called for.

(*b*) The railway company did not requisition the services of the police.

(*c*) No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"In regard to the answer to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know whether the firing by the police in Tuticorin and Trichinopoly without any magisterial order was also to enforce law and preserve public peace?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have not heard the question, so I would request that it may be repeated."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am asking whether, in the many services which the Police rendered to the Railway, the firing on unarmed crowds without the order of any magistrate at all both at Tuticorin and Trichinopoly was also for the purpose of enforcing law and preserving public peace?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"They had to preserve law and order."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether the Government have enquired that firing was done without any magisterial order, and whether they satisfied themselves that it was in pursuance of their duty to enforce law?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Government have examined the question and have come to the conclusion that everything was done all right."

Civil Justice

Publication of the Law Reports.

*364 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what steps are taken (i) to avoid delays in the publication of the authorized law reports, (ii) to reduce the number of private publications of law reports and (iii) to standardize the reports?

A.—(i) The matter is under correspondence between the Government and the Council of Law Reporting.

(ii) & (iii) These are matters which are now engaging the attention of the Government of India and this Government are not in a position to make any definite statement at this stage.